THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, the 18th January 1949.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 3 p.m., Mr. President (THE HON. SRI R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

The district administration of Tiruchirappalli.

* 158 *Q*.—SRI S. B. ADITYAN: Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the district administration of Tiruchirappalli is carried on in Tamil language;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the Government employees who were formerly accustomed to do their work in English were suddenly asked to use Tamil;

(*c*) whether the staff were given any previous training in the use of Tamil language for official purposes;

(*d*) (i) whether the required number of typewriting machines in Tamil is available; (ii) if so, whether the typists in the employ of the Government have been given sufficient training in operating the machines with speed; and (iii) whether the stenographers in Government service were likewise given any training in Tamil Shorthand;

(*e*) whether the administrative machinery has slowed down as a result of the change in language; and

(*f*) whether the Government have made arrangements for extending the change of official language to other Tamil districts?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN (on behalf of the Hon. the Premier):—" (*a*) & (*b*) In March 1948, an M.L.A. gave notice of a resolution recommending to Government that all Heads of Departments in the districts should conduct their proceedings and correspondence within the district in the regional language of the district concerned, the correspondence with the Government being carried on as usual in English. The Assembly was subsequently prorogued and consequently the resolution lapsed. The Government, however, considered the suggestion and decided that it should be tried as an experiment in Tiruchirappalli and East Godavari districts from the 1st May 1948 for a period of six months and that the decision will apply to local bodies also, but not to Courts. The Collectors of the two districts and the Heads of Departments were asked to submit a report on the working of the scheme at the end of that period. The reports are being now received, but they are not yet complete.

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"(c) No. But there used to be, even formerly, appreciable correspondence in the regional language in the Taluk offices.

"(d) No.

"(e) Yes; to a certain extent.

"(f) No. The reports from the two Collectors and Heads of Departments on the experiment will be reviewed and orders will be passed in the matter as soon as possible."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—"In view of the fact that the staff have had no experience or training in the use of Tamil language, will the Government appoint some teachers to teach the staff in the official type of Tamil language so that administration may be carried on in a better way?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—"My answer, Sir, would indicate that we are not yet in a position to assess the difficulty until we get the required information. We are yet awaiting the reports from the Collectors of the districts concerned and as soon as we get the information, we shall go into the matter."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—"Have not the Government received a preliminary report that the Government machinery has slowed down considerably in those districts and that they require additional staff in case the administration is to be carried on in Tamil?"

MR. PRESIDENT :—"I suppose the final report will throw more light."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—"Certainly we cannot take action upon information partly received and partly awaited. For any definite action to be taken, we must know exactly from the District Officers concerned that they require such and such assistance and that they find particular difficulties. If they express any difficulties in their reports, we shall certainly go into the matter and deal with it."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—"May I know what preliminary steps Government took such as giving training to the staff in Tamil Shorthand and supplying Tamil typewriters?"

THE HON. T. S. S. RAJAN :—"All such requirements should be brought to the notice of the Government and I expect the Collectors will do so."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—"May I know, Sir, in what language the reply will be sent by the Collector of Tiruchirappalli if a letter is addressed to him by the Collector of Bellary?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—"The Court language still continues to be English. Therefore, hon. Members may easily presume that the reply will be sent in English."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"May I know whether the Government have observed the rule in the preliminary posting of officers to choose those who know the language of the districts because they are the officers who have to issue orders?"

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THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Officers are expected to know the language of the district because they have got to issue orders. So far as Tiruchirappalli is concerned, I can tell the House that the Collector of Tiruchirappalli is a native of Tiruchirappalli and knows Tamil. About the other district, I am not quite sure. Still I expect the Collector of East Godavari to know the language of that district."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" May I take it that this is a first step for the establishment of a Tamil linguistic Province? " (Laughter.)

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I leave it to the hon. Member to draw his own conclusions."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" Is there any difficulty, Sir, in shifting of officers between districts and districts? If any non-Tamil knowing officer is put in charge of a district like Tiruchirappalli, he can be easily transferred and a Tamil-knowing man put into his place so that the correspondence can be carried on in Tamil."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" So far as Tiruchirappalli is concerned, no difficulties have been brought to the notice of the Government."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether the experiment that is carried on in Tiruchirappalli has come to an end and whether the Government intend to extend this principle to other Tamil districts? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" As soon as Government get the report from the Collector of Tiruchirappalli, they will think of extending it to other districts."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I inform the Hon. Minister that the present Collector of Tiruchirappalli is a Bengal civilian and he must have forgotten Tamil long ago? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I may assure the hon. Member that he knows Tamil very well and he speaks Tamil in his own house."

SRI M. NARAYANA MENON :—" May I know what is the language of the Court in Tiruchirappalli? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It is the same language that has been there for so many years."

SRI M. NARAYANA MENON :—" I suppose it is English."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Yes."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" The Tamil language that is now being used by the officials in the Tiruchirappalli district can hardly be understood by the average Tamil-speaking population."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Not at all."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" Is it not a fact that the Tamil language that is spoken in Tiruchirappalli is much better than the English language that is spoken there? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Yes, Sir."